United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1120
14 April 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ International Court of Justice rules today in The Hague that circumstances of the case presented by Libya are not such as to require the exercise of its power under article 41 of the statute to indicate provisonal measures.

+ Secretary-General arrives in Beijing for meetings with Chinese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; delivers opening statement at forty-eighth session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

+ Spokesman for United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia denies press reports regarding a possible move of UNPROFOR headquarters from Sarajevo.

+ Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, to leave for that country tonight.

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One day before the 15 April deadline set by the Security Council for an air and arms embargo against Libya, the International Court of Justice ruled in The Hague, by 11 votes to five, that "the circumstances of the case are not such as to require the exercise of its power under article 41 of the statute to indicate provisional measures". Japan, the United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, the United States, China, Norway, the Commonwealth of Independent States, France, Guyana and Venezuela voted in favour of not invoking article 41; Algeria, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Nigeria and Judge ad hoc for Libya voted against.

The Court also stated that Libya, the United States and the United Kingdom, as members of the United Nations, were obliged to accept and carry out the decision of the Security Council in accordance with article 25 of the Charter.

Libya had requested the Court to enjoin the United Kingdom and the United States from taking any action against Libya calculated to coerce or compel Libya to surrender the accused individuals to any jurisdiction outside of

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Libya; and to ensure that no steps are taken that would prejudice in any way the rights of Libya with respect to the legal proceedings that are the subject of Libya's application.

The Court further stated that, while it had not been called upon to determine definitely the legal effect of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) setting the deadline for compliance with the Council's requests for cooperation, the rights claimed by Libya under the 1971 Montreal Convention "can not now be regarded as appropriate for protection by the indication of provisional measures".

The air and arms embargo imposed by the Security Council against Libya will take effect tomorrow night - one minute past midnight - unless Libya agrees to comply with Council resolution 731 (1992) requesting that country's cooperation in establishing responsibility for the terrorist attacks against Pam Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived this morning in Beijing to attend the opening meeting of the forty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He was scheduled to meet later today with the Prime Minister of China, Li Peng, and will meet with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, tomorrow.

In his address to the opening meeting of the Commission, the Secretary-General told participants that the end of the cold war had raised hope and optimism and provided a unique opportunity for the international community "to turn to the task of laying a basis for balanced and sustained development in all regions of the world". A major challenge of the 1990s for the region was to eradicate poverty and illiteracy, he added.

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The spokesman for United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), Fred Eckhard, said today that there was no basis for reports regarding a possible move of UNPROFOR headquarters from Sarajevo. On the contrary, he stressed, contracts were being entered into, personnel being brought in and deployment in United Nations protected areas was proceeding according to plan.

Speaking at a press briefing in Sarajevo today, Mr. Eckhard said UNPROFOR military observers had reported "relative quiet" in the protected areas for the past 24 hours, and previously troubled areas around Osijek and Dubrovnik had been relatively calm for the past 48 hours. However, he noted, there had been reports of continued coercion and expulsions being dealt with by UNPROFOR civilian police and military. There had also been two incidents involving Canadian companies, forced to temporarily abandon locations in western Slavonia when mortar rounds had landed some 200 metres away. The two companies

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returned to their original positions today, Mr. Eckhard said.

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Postponing his departure by 24 hours, the Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, will be leaving for Belgrade tonight, via Geneva. From the Serbian capital Mr. Vance is expected to travel to Sarajevo "tomorrow night or Thursday".

Mr. Vance would spend three to four days in Yugoslavia. He will travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the framework of the statement made by the Security Council President on Friday, 10 April, inviting the Secretary-General to dispatch urgently to the area his Personal Envoy to act in close cooperation with representatives of the European Community in their current efforts to stop the fighting and to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in the area.

Mr. Vance will return to New York via Portugal. In Lisbon, he is scheduled to meet on Saturday with the Foreign Minister of Portugal, who is the current Chairman of the European Community.

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DH/1121
15 April 1992

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council sets up Committee on sanctions against Libya and elects Hungarian Permanent Representative to the United Nations as its Chairman; Committee to hold first meeting tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General holds talks with Foreign Minister of China and other Government officials in Beijing; tells a press conference of "positive discussions" on new United Nations role in peace-keeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy.

+ Narcotic Drugs Commission concludes 35th session in Vienna placing 10 new substances under international control, among other things.

+ Iraq says surveillance flights carried out by Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament are "dangerous" at a time when they might be mistaken for hostile action by Iranian Air Force in Iraqi airspace.

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The Security Council met this morning in a closed meeting to establish the Committee to handle all issues relating to the implementation of the sanctions against Libya, imposed as of today by Council resolution 748 (1992) of 31 March. The Council elected as Chairman of the Committee on sanctions the Hungarian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador André Erdos. The Committee, which is made up of the 15 members of the Security Council, is scheduled to hold its first substantive meeting tomorrow.

The Council decided under resolution 748 that all member States must notify the Committee by 15 May of the measures they intend to take to fulfil the requirements of the mandatory sanctions. The Committee will gather information from States regarding action taken by them concerning the sanctions and consider applications from States for flights to and from Libya for humanitarian purposes.

The Council had set a 15 April deadline for Libya to comply with resolution 731 (1992) requesting its cooperation in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The

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sanctions, which went into effect at midnight, include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

The French Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jean-Bernard Merimée, told correspondents this morning that his Government had decided to expel six diplomats -- about one-third of the Libyan diplomatic and consulate agents in France.

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Following his talks today in Beijing with the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Jiang Zemin and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told a press conference that his talks with the Chinese leaders had focused on social and economic issues and cooperation.

He praised the strong support China was giving to the Security Council on regional issues and stressed the positive discussions he had held with the Chinese officials on the United Nations new role in the field of peace-keeping, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy. He emphasized the importance of the 48th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which opened yesterday in the Chinese capital, noting its significance in promoting cooperation in the region.

Asked about the Libyan situation, the Secretary-General said he would continue his diplomatic activities to help find a peaceful solution.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali is scheduled to leave China for Cambodia on 17 April. He will then visit Thailand and India, before returning to New York on 23 April.

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The Commission on Narcotic Drugs concluded today in Vienna its 35th session after adopting a number of proposals to the Economic and Social Council. During its 10-day session, the Commission placed 10 new substances under international control.

In particular, the Commission recommended that the Council urge States that export chemicals essential to the manufacture of heroin and cocaine to find ways to detect and prevent their illicit diversion and trafficking. It also adopted a draft resolution which identified a series of measures to prevent the diversion of precursor and essential chemicals.

The Commission adopted a proposal on a debt for development swap. But following the adoption, a number of delegations called for a reconsideration of the draft. The motion was defeated by a vote of 15 in favour to 19 against with 6 abstentions.

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Among other drafts adopted by the Commission, one on illicit traffic at sea calls on all States to cooperate in apprehending illicit traffickers on the high seas and to keep accurate records of vessels. It also invited Member States to make every effort to bring their national legislations into conformity with the provisions of the 1988 Convention. Member States were invited to consider contributing forfeited property or proceeds from illict traffic in narcotic drugs to the Fund of the Drug Control Programme for the fulfilment of its International Drug Control mandate. Full cooperation and support in coordinating and implementing the United Nations Decade against Drug abuse (1991 -2000) was also called for.

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Iraq has said that surveillance flights carried out by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament were "dangerous" at a time when they might be mistaken for hostile action by the Iranian Air Force in Iraqi airspace.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 12 April, Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Hussein said Iraq "did not intend to carry out any military operation" against surveillance aircraft as reported by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament. He said the purpose of a letter given to the Commission Chairman, during a meeting on 9 April, was to draw attention to the dangers to which the surveillance aircraft of the United Nations inspection teams might be exposed by reason of the recent hostile action of the Iranian Air Force and the Iraqi counter-action.

The Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, had informed the Security Council of recent developments which appeared to constitute a threat to the safety of the inspection flights carried out by the Commission. The Council reacted by issuing a Presidential statement on Friday 10 April warning the Government of Iraq of the serious consequences which would ensue if Iraq did not comply with its obligations to ensure the Special Commission its right to conduct aerial surveillance flights.

Teri Trevane of the Special Commission told correspondents, at a press briefing at Headquarters last week, that the surveillance planes bore United Nations markings; were registered under United Nations terms, and that the pilots had United Nations certification. He said the frequency of the surveillance flights -- currently 2 per week -- might increase, once the Special Commission began its long-term monitoring activities in Iraq.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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16 April 1992

T H U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General is "deeply disturbed" by developments that took place in Afghanistan last night; expresses hope that safety of all United Nations personnel would be respected.

+ Secretary-General holds meetings in Beijing with Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Azerbaijan, and Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, for discussions on Cambodia and Nagorno-Karabakh, among other things.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, briefs correspondents on recent trips to Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as to the Horn of Africa, threatened by serious drought; World Food Programme issues alert concerning southern African drought.

+ Progress in destruction of Iraqi chemical weapons assessed by United Nations team.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, meets various leaders in Sarajevo; returns to Belgrade before going to Zagreb tomorrow, and then to Geneva and Lisbon.

+ Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission completes its fifth session at Headquarters; new lines of demarcation drawn.

+ Secretariat of Economic Comission for Latin America and the Caribbean urged to continue work on defining frame of reference for regional developement, as it concludes ministerial stage of its twenty-fourth session in Santiago, Chile.

+ Disarmament Commission to hold 1992 session at Headquarters, 20 April to 11 May.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is "deeply disturbed" over the developments that took place last night in Afghanistan and expects that the

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safety of all United Nations personnel would be guaranteed and their freedom of movement respected, in and out of the country, according to a statement read out today by Spokesman François Giuliani.

The Secretary-General also said that the political situation in Afghanistan was moving at a very fast pace and that the prevailing situation in Kabul required that the United Nations plan for a political solution "be pursued in earnest by all concerned".

Emphasizing that there was no alternative to a political solution, the Secretary-General said violence would "simply perpetuate the suffering of the Afghan people and the difficulties which have besieged Afghanistan for so long".

On Friday 10 April, the Secretary-General announced that agreement had been reached with the Afghan parties and Governments involved to establish a pre-transitional council composed of impartial personalities to which all powers and all executive authority would be transferred. An Afghan gathering of 1500 representatives of the Afghan population would meet as soon as possible to work out the arrangements for the transition period and an interim mechanism, leading to the establishment of a Government in Kabul through free and fair elections.

The United Nations efforts for a peaceful solution to the 13-year conflict in Afghanistan have been led by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in that country, Benon Sevan, who for several months has held intensive consultations with all segments of the Afghan people.

The Security Council was holding consultations this evening concerning the new developments in Afghanistan.

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On a four-day official visit to China, the Secretary-General met yesterday in Beijing with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Ali Alatas, with whom he discussed the situation in Cambodia and Indonesia's contribution to the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The Foreign Minister invited the Secretary-General to attend the summit of Non-Aligned countries to be held in September in Indonesia.

Today, the Secretary-General received the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Houssein Sadykhov, for a discussion of the situation in that country, especially in Nagorno-Karabakh, about which he expressed grave concern. The Secretary-General reiterated his support for the diplomatic efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

This evening Mr. Boutros-Ghali received the Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Koji Kakizawa, to whom he indicated that he would welcome increased Japanese participation in United Nations

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peace-keeping; it was for Japan to decide what form it should take.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator for Emergency Assistance, Jan Eliasson, briefed correspondents today on his recent trips on behalf of the Secretary-General to Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as to the Horn of Africa.

On the situation in Bangladesh and Myanmar, Mr. Eliasson said the process of solving the crisis of 200,000 refugees who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh had begun. He said the Myanmari was willing to take back those who could prove that they had lived in Myanmar.

Mr. Eliasson, who recently returned from visits to the refugee camps in Myanmar and from talks with officials of both countries, said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would be present in the repatriation phase of the refugee operation. He stressed that only half of UNHCR's $27 million appeal had been raised so far, adding that, with the monsoon season approaching, United Nations officials feared a deterioration of an already critical situation in the border area.

Addressing the situation of drought in the Horn of Africa, particularly in southern Sudan and eastern Ethiopia, Mr. Eliasson said the countries in that region had a responsibility for their own population. Without the support of the Governments concerned, he said, relief would not be effective.

Turning to southern Africa, the Under-Secretary-General said that, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), that region was undergoing its most severe drought in many decades. Devastating twelve countries, the drought had destroyed important food crops and led to heavy livestock losses. Mr. Eliasson warned that there would be massive starvation and a huge displacement of people without immediate food aid.

According to the Under-Secretary-General, the World Food Programme (WFP) had issued an alert concerning the southern African drought. The countries most heavily affected were Zambia and Zimbabwe. Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, central and southern Mozambique, the northern part of Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa, Angola and Madagascar had also been affected.

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The second United Nations team overseeing the destruction of the Iraqi chemical weapons completed its work yesterday. The team inspected work in progress at the Mutana State Establishment on the construction of a plant for the destruction of chemical weapons. Work completed so far was found to be generally acceptable, although some alterations were required by the team to improve safety and effectiveness.

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Led by Ron Manley, the team conducted activities in Iraq from 5 to 13 April. It comprised 14 experts and professional support staff from eight countries.

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Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, spent the day in Sarajevo, meeting with various leaders, according to the spokesman of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR). He was to return to Belgrade tonight, before traveling to Zagreb tomorrow.

Upon completion of his visit to Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance will fly to Geneva and Lisbon, before returning to Headquarters.

* * *

The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission completed its fifth session at United Nations Headquarters today, by reviewing the field work of the joint New Zealand-Swedish survey team which provided the basis of the orthophoto mapping of the Iraq-Kuwait border area. These maps have been produced from the control survey and aerial photography taken by the joint team.

Pursuant to earlier decisions, the independent experts of the Commission had also requested the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait to provide them with any and all relevant information on that matter. The independent experts presented to the Commission exhaustive analyses in detailed documentations of all available data for the determination of the location of a number of demarcation points.

In the light of all available information, the Commission was able to draw the line of the boundary between the two countries in a number of locations.

The fifth session of the Demarcation Commission took place from 8 to 16 April. Its next session is scheduled for July 1992.

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The Economic Comission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has recommended to its secretariat that it continue work on defining a frame of reference for regional development, urging that it delves more deeply into the relationship between changing production patterns and social equity.

The Commission took that action yesterday, by adopting a resolution at the conclusion of the ministerial stage of its twenty-fourth session in Santiago, Chile.

In other resolutions adopted, the delegations agreed to strengthen cooperation with Latin American countries and on measures to improve cooperation between Latin American and the Caribbean. With respect to the

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United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), they affirmed that ECLAC is prepared to play a leading role in coordinating regional and subregional activities in accordance with decisions taken at the Earth Summit.

Member States have recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC be held next year in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

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During its next annual session, scheduled to begin at Headquarters on Monday, 20 April, the United Nations Disarmament Commission will consider the role of the Organization in efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons. The 16-day session will also discuss ways to enhance transparency in military matters and the impact of scientific and technological developments on international security.

The Commission is now entering its second year of a reorganization and, under the reform, no subject should be maintained on the Commission's agenda for more than three consecutive years. Therefore, the question of transparency in military matters, which the Commission has been discussing since 1990, will have to be concluded during the upcoming session.

The Disarmament Commission, which is a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly with universal membership, was set up to make specific recommendations on disarmament issues and to follow up on the decisions of the Assembly special sessions on disarmament.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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20 April 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council President urges all parties in Afghanistan to "display restraint" and to support United Nations efforts to end crisis; Secretary-General's Personal Representative is continuing efforts "to push forward a political solution under the new evolving circumstances".

+ In Phnom Penh over the weekend, Secretary-General meets with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and appeals to international community for $593 million to finance economic reconstruction of Cambodia; arrives today in Bangkok to begin two-day official visit to Thailand.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations meets delegation of FMLN to discuss implementation of peace agreement in El Salvador.

+ Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia returns to New York following mission to Yugoslavia and meetings in Lisbon with Portuguese Foreign Minister.

+ Executive Director of International Atomic Energy Agency reports to Security Council that Agency "will be precluded from carrying out monitoring and verification of scope and nature approved by the Council until Iraq provides it with full and complete details of its nuclear programme".

+ Committee on Information ends its fourteenth session in New York, approving report to General Assembly and draft texts on United Nations public information policies and activities.

+ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to begin first session in Vienna tomorrow, 21 April.

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The Security Council has urged all concerned in the Afghan conflict to "display restraint" and support the efforts of the Secretary-General's

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Personal Representative, Benon Sevan, "towards a political solution" to the crisis, saying there was "no viable alternative".

The Security Council made the appeal in a statement read out by Council President Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi of Zimbabwe on Thursday night, 16 April.

The Council President said a political solution had been proposed by the Secretary-General with the objective of bringing and end to bloodshed and violence, promoting national reconciliation, and safeguarding the unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. Failure to do so could only perpetuate the suffering of the Afghan people. The Council urged all parties in Afghanistan to assure the safety of all, especially United Nations personnel, and their complete freedom of movement, the safety of the personnel of diplomatic missions, as well as the safe departure of those who had chosen to leave.

Also on Thursday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali deplored the outbreak of fighting in Afghanistan and expressed the hope that the safety of all United Nations personnel would be respected.

The fighting in Afghanistan began in the wake of an agreement reached "in principle" last week with the Afghan parties and Governments involved to establish a pre-transitional council in Afghanistan composed of impartial personalities to which all powers and all executive authority would be transferred.

Announcing the agreement in Geneva on Friday, 10 April, the Secretary-General said an Afghan gathering would be organized as early as possible to work out arrangements for the transition period leading to the establishment of a Government in Kabul through free and fair elections.

Meanwhile, spokeswoman Nadia Younes told correspondents today that the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, had been continuing his effort towards a solution to the Afghan crisis.

She said Mr. Sevan had been in touch with the United Nations throughout the weekend and had made "continuous attempts to push forward a political solution under the new evolving circumstances and to avoid a military confrontation in Kabul".

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Continuing his three-week visit to Europe and Asia, the Secretary-General arrived today in Bangkok from Phnom Penh to begin a two-day official visit to Thailand, according to a United Nations spokeswoman.

Tomorrow, 21 April, the Secretary-General would call on the Thai interim Prime Minister, Anand Panyarachun, with whom he would hold consultations. Following a luncheon in his honour, Mr. Boutros-Ghali would visit the headquarters of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to address the staff. He would be received in audience by the King and Queen of Thailand. He would then leave for New Delhi to begin an official two-day visit to India.

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In Cambodia over the weekend, the Secretary-General inspected the operation of the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). On Saturday, 18 April, he had a meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the President of the Supreme National Council -- the sole legitimate authority in Cambodia.

This morning, Mr. Boutros-Ghali held a press conference in the presence of Prince Sihanouk, launching an appeal to the international donor community for $593 million in voluntary contributions to finance the economic reconstruction of Cambodia.

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A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, would chair a meeting this morning with a delegation of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

Requested by the FMLN, the meeting would take stock of the implementation of the peace agreement in El Salvador. Further meetings were planned with Mr. Goulding, probably this afternoon and tomorrow. The FMLN delegation would leave New York on Wednesday, 22 April.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, returned to New York Saturday night from Lisbon, where he had met with the Portuguese Foreign Minister, following Mr. Vance's visit to Yugoslavia, a United Nations spokeswoman said today.

Mr. Vance was now preparing his report to the Secretary-General on his mission to Yugoslavia.

In reply to questions about press reports over the weekend about "armed groups in Bosnia disguised as United Nations troops", the spokeswoman confirmed that there had been incidents on both sides, with "unnamed parties using blue berets, blue helmets and white vehicles with United Nations markings". Even though there were only three or four incidents, she said the situation as "dangerous and irresponsible". The United Nations had protested these incidents locally.

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The Executive Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix, has said that "until such time as Iraq provides the Agency with full and complete details of its nuclear programme", as required by resolution 715 (1991), the IAEA will be "precluded from establishing a firm basis for carrying out effectively monitoring and verification of the scope and nature approved by the Security Council".

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Mr. Blix's conclusions were contained in the Agency's first six-month report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the its plan for future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with the relevant resolutions.

The report pointed out that in his address to the Council on 11 March, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had asserted Iraq's willingness to comply with resolution 687 (1991) and to reach a practical solution to the question of the Council verification of Iraq's capabilities to produce weapons prohibited by the resolution. Mr. Aziz had also stated that further negotiation and modification of the two plans approved under resolution 715 were necessary.

Mr. Blix further reported that the eleventh IAEA inspection team, which visited Iraq from 7 to 15 April, had intended to make it clear to the Iraqi side that the IAEA would "not negotiate modifications to the terms of the plans approved by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 715".

The Security Council is scheduled to take up the report tomorrow during consultations, along with a report of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament also dealing with Iraq's compliance with resolution 687.

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The General Assembly would call on the Secretary-General to study ways of redressing differences in the allocation of resources and support in the financing of United Nations information centres, according to recommendations approved on Thursday, 16 April, by the Committee on Information, as it concluded its 1992 session.

The recommendations are contained in the Committee's annual report to the Assembly, which was approved without a vote, as orally revised. The text would also have the Secretary-General submit to the Committee at its next session a comprehensive report on his plan to integrate United Nations information centres with other United Nations offices, while maintaining the centres' functional autonomy.

By other provisions of the text on United Nations public information policies, the Assembly would request that the Secretary-General complete arrangements for an information component in Warsaw; have the Department of Public Information provide professionals and equipment, where necessary, to reactivate the centre at Tehran and to enhance the centres at Dar es Salaam,
Dhaka and Bujumbura; consider approving the establishment of a centre at Sana'a; and encourage enhanced cooperation between the Department and the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

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Transnational crime, organized crime, penal sanctions and money laundering, including confiscation of the proceeds of crime, are among the topics to be discussed by the first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, beginning tomorrow in Vienna.

The newly established 40-member Commission replaces the now defunct Committee on Crime Prevention and Control as the major functional United Nations body dealing with crime control issues. It provides policy guidance in crime prevention and criminal justice and will develop, monitor and review the United Nations programme on crime prevention and mobilize support for it on the part of Member States. Another function of the new Commission will be to make preparations for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders which are held every five years. Eight have been held so far and have produced important instruments, guidelines and standards on various crime prevention and criminal justice issues.

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DH/1124
21 April 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to travel to Pakistan on Friday, 24 April, in connection with developments in Afghanistan; his Personal Representative for that country, Benon Sevan, calls for cessation of hostilities and amnesty for all.

+ Secretary-General, arriving in New Delhi for official visit, declines to comment on Afghanistan situation; holds talks with Thai Prime Minister and King Bhumipol Adulyadej in Bangkok before leaving for India.

+ Afghanistan says it will "not spare any effort" in cooperating with United Nations towards political settlement; promises to ensure security and safety of United Nations staff and personnel of diplomatic missions.

+ Disarmament Commission session begins annual session at Headquarters, hearing statement by Chairman and by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

+ Sudan approves United Nations relief flights from Kenya into the country until end of April, enabling resumption of humanitarian assistance to large numbers of people in urgent need in southern Sudan; field assessment work to begin on 2 May in Khartoum.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will travel to Pakistan on Friday, 24 April, in connection with developments in Afghanistan, his Spokesman announced today.

Spokesman François Giuliani also told correspondents at Headquarters that the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, was traveling in different areas of Afghanistan and meeting with key commanders in an effort to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

According to a communiqué from Kabul, Mr. Sevan appealed yesterday, at a press conference in Kabul, to all Afghans to "exercise restraint and show forgiveness". He said "almost all the hurdles and difficult issues have been

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resolved and the main principles agreed and accepted although some details still need to be worked out".

Mr. Sevan had clarified that, despite new reports, there was indeed no "United Nations plan" as such, but only a set of principles, such as the need for dialogue among Afghans. Whatever the Afghans themselves chose as their transitional mechanism, would have to be accepted and respected by all non-Afghans.

Mr. Sevan called for "a cessation of hostilities, an amnesty for all, security and human rights for all Afghans, protection of property and the opening of all supply routes for food and other essential items". He also urged that a transfer of power be carried out in an orderly way to prevent chaos and bloodshed. Afghans should think of themselves first and foremost as Afghans and not as members of any particular ethnic group, he said. "What is essential is the restoration of sovereignty and the safeguarding of the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. The challenge to Afghanistan now is to win the peace and not the war", he said.

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The Secretary-General ended today his official visit to Thailand and arrived in New Delhi for a two-day visit to India before going to Pakistan on Friday, 24 April, in connection with developments in Afghanistan.

Upon arrival at New Delhi airport, the Secretary-General made a statement saying he did not want to comment on the problem of Afghanistan. "I just want to remind you that the achievements of the United Nations are to maintain the political independence of Afghanistan, to maintain its territorial integrity and to achieve national reconciliation", the Secretary-General said. The United Nations was trying to do its best to achieve these objectives, he added.

Before leaving Bangkok, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with the Interim Prime Minister of Thailand, Anand Panyarachun, with whom he discussed the support of Thailand for the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the active role of Thailand in the battle against drugs; Thailand's economic performance and dynamism in the promotion of economic and social development, as well as cooperation in the area; and its support to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the main arm of the United Nations in the Asian and Pacific region.

In Phnom Penh yesterday, 20 April, Mr. Boutros-Ghali appealed to the international community for $593 million to Cambodia for food, health services, shelter, education, training and the restoration of its basic infrastructure, public utilities and supportive institutions. Included in the appeal were additional funds for the repatriation of refugees.

In a speech delivered in the Cambodian capital, he said the funds were urgently needed to help the nation recover from more than two decades of confrontations and suffering and to ensure that the political process that has put the nation on the road to democracy was not compromised.

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Concerning the repatriation of around 360,000 refugees from border camps in Thailand, he said the donor community had already responded to an earlier appeal to contribute through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). But, he noted, substantial financial needs had not yet been covered and additional funds were still required if the repatriation process, which began last month, was to proceed smoothly.

Also yesterday, in a statement to the Cambodian Supreme National Council -- the legitimate authority in that country -- the Secretary-General hailed the accession by Cambodia to two international Human Rights Covenants, saying the signing of those instruments was a "historic and fundamental step by Cambodia" in the implementation of last October's Paris Agreement. By its accession, he said, Cambodia had undertaken formal international responsibilities in regard to respecting and protecting the basic rights of all its population.

The Secretary-General went on to say that it was now incumbent on the Cambodian parties to accept their responsibilities and to take the necessary measures to ensure the concrete application of the principles established in the Covenants. In this way, he said, "they will show their willingness to overcome the serious mistakes of the past, to open a new page in the history of Cambodia and to lay the foundations for a free society, based on law and justice."

The two Covenants signed by Cambodia -- the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights -- were adopted by the General Assembly in 1966.

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Afghanistan has said it was of the conviction that, "under the present circumstances, with the stepping aside of President Najibullah, the ground has been paved more than ever before for the cessation of war and ensurrance of peace in the country".

According to a statement issued on 16 April, the Republic of Afghanistan said it supported the Security Council's call for a political solution to the 13-year conflict in that country and declared that it would spare no effort in cooperating with the United Nations.

The statement further promised to ensure the safety and security of United Nations employees and other diplomatic personnel, as well as their full freedom of movement, as called for by the Council.

The Afghan statement was made following the Security Council's appeal on Thursday, 16 April, urging all concerned to "display restraint" and calling for support for the United Nations plan. It was transmitted by the Afghan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Waheedullah, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 20 April. (S/23823)

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Vladimir Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, said yesterday that the full range of the United Nations disarmament machinery "should be utilized in a more constructive and innovative manner" for the promotion of disarmament and the preservation of peace.

In a statement to the opening meeting of the Disarmament Commission's 1992 session, the Under-Secretary-General said that such machinery should also be used to improve the procedures for dealing with disarmament.

Under the agenda adopted yesterday, the Commission plans to resume its discussion of efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, regional disarmament and the impact of scientific and technological development on international security. It also expects to conclude its consideration of the question of objective information on military matters.

In his opening statement, Chairman of the Commission Andre Erdos (Hungary), said the new world and the long-envisioned system of collective security did not come into existence by themselves, and the progress achieved did not automatically guarantee the maintenance of peace, security and justice. In moments of historic transformations, fundamental changes were required. He hoped the reinvigorated Disarmament Commission would live up to the expectations and requirements of the new era.

During yesterday's general debate, the representative of Sweden proposed a new item for the Commission's agenda from 1993 through 1995 -- "General guidelines for non-proliferation" with emphasis on weapons of mass destruction.

* * *

The Government of Sudan has agreed to allow United Nations relief flights from Kenya into three of four locations in the country until the end of April 1992, according to a United Nations spokesman at Headquarters today.

The resumption of the United Nations relief flights, which had been suspended for over 40 days, came in response to efforts by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson, who was requested by the Secretary-General to give special attention to the question of the humanitarian situation in the Sudan. Last week, Mr. Eliasson told correspondents at Headquarters that the problem in the Sudan was one of access and described the situation there as urgent. He also pointed out that the United Nations had been conducting its relief operations in the Sudan at considerable risk.

The authorization by the Sudanese Government has allowed humanitarian assistance to reach a large number of people in urgent need of relief assistance in Southern Sudan. However, the Government had not yet acceded to a request to permit flights to a fourth region, as well as other areas of the

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Sudan, according to the spokesman. He said an agreement had been reached to undertake a joint United Nations/Government assessment of the emergency food and non-food relief and structure needs for the displaced. The field assessment work will begin on 2 May in Khartoum.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1125
22 April 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, on second day of his visit to India, holds talks with Indian Ministers about developments in Afghanistan, United Nations peace-keeping in Yugoslavia and Cambodia, Rio Earth Summit in June, among other things.

+ While tension in Sarajevo continues, Secretary-General approves early deployment of unarmed military observers to Mostar, in Hercegovina, to liaise with local communities and use good offices to reduce tension.

+ Icelandic Red Cross nurse working in Afghanistan killed in Maydan Shar, south of Kabul, according to report by International Committee of the Red Cross.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, cites progress towards comprehensive solution to conflict in Kompong Thom region.

+ Disarmament Commission concludes general debate, hearing views on transparency in armaments, nuclear arms reduction and impact of scientific developments on security, among other things.

+ World Food Programme provides additional food aid to Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh.

+ Beginning first session at Headquarters, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice hears address by Director-General of United Nations Office at Vienna.

* * *

On the second day of his visit to India, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with the Foreign Minister of India, J.N. Dixit, with whom he discussed various matters including developments in Afghanistan and the role of the United Nations - political and economic - in the changing

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For information media—not an official record

world situation. They also discussed the United Nations peace-keeping operations in Cambodia and Yugoslavia, and the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

The Secretary-General also held talks with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, on the role of the United Nations in the light of the declaration adopted at the Security Council Summit in January, as well as the role of regional bodies and United Nations specialized agencies. Views were exchanged on such issues as Cambodia, the Middle East and Libya.

At a lunch held in the Secretary-General's honour, Mr. Faleiro welcomed Mr. Boutros-Ghali as the new Secretary-General at a time when the United Nations was in a unique position to advance the cause of international co-operation. The Minister saw a need for the democratization of the United Nations, not merely by expansion of the membership of the Security Council, but also by ensuring that legality was maintained in international relations across the board.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in his response, noted India's contribution over the years to the United Nations and expressed his deep appreciation for the role this country continued to play in support of the Organization. Both India and the United Nations were committed to end conflicts that "have scarred our planet too long", he said, adding that progress to this end would require great perseverance and skill.

In the evening, the Secretary-General met with Minister of Defence Sharad Pawar for a discussion on various United Nations peace-keeping operations and the situation in the region. Mr. Boutros-Ghali thanked the Minister for his country's contribution to peace-keeping, most recently in El Salvador, Yugoslavia and Cambodia.

The Secretary-General will meet with the Indian Prime Minister later this evening.

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In an acceleration of the role of the military observer unit, Commander Satish Nambiar of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) has recommended early deployment of observers in the Mostar area. The Secretary-General has approved the proposal, which will be implemented beginning 30 April, according to Spokesman François Giuliani.

The United Nations observers will operate in several municipalities in the region. Their mission will be to actively patrol in those areas, establishing close liaison with local communities and using their good offices to reduce tension. The observers will work in ten-man teams and will conduct 11 patrols daily. They will be unarmed.

Under the original United Nations Plan, observers were to be deployed to part of Bosnia-Hercegovina only after the demilitarization of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs). The change represents an adjustment in the

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timetable, not an expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force.

After demilitarization of the Protected Areas, United Nations military observers are expected to be deployed to the Bihac and Dubrovnik areas as well.

In a related development, the Spokesman for UNPROFOR, Fred Eckhard, confirmed earlier today that 60 patients had been evacuated from an hospital on fire outside of Sarajevo by a team of the Force from Sweden, to be transported to another hospital in that city.

* * *

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported today that Jan Karlsson, a 39-year old Icelandic Red Cross nurse working in Afghanistan, was killed today in Maydan Shar, south of Kabul.

Mr. Karlsson was attending two wounded Afghans who had been evacuated from the Sheikhabad first-aid post. A crowd gathered around the ICRC vehicles after the wounded men had been taken aboard. A man in the crown fired at Jan Karlsson, who was killed instantly.

The ICRC reported that on the previous day, delegates had discussed the medical evacuation with local leaders and had received all the necessary safety guarantees. The Committee said that in the present climate of political and military upheaval in Afghanistan, the Red Cross was stepping up security measures and was doing everything possible to obtain satisfactory security guarantees from all parties concerned.

* * *

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, today announced that there has been a steady progression towards a comprehensive solution to the conflict in Kompong Thom. Progress had been reached through the establishment of the local mixed military working group in the region on 30 March.

Mr. Akashi said the constant dialogue between all factions on the issue had led to detailed reconnaissance of the area of contention. The reception by the villagers in areas controlled by all factions was extremely hospitable and reflected their enthusiasm and eagerness for the arrival of the United Nations, he reported. The UNTAC team distributed Khmer language copies of the Paris Agreements and mine signs to enable the people to begin delineating the danger areas. Further discussions and combined planning by all factions will continue until final agreement on all details can be reached.

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The importance of removing the threat posed by the current level of armaments was stressed by several delegates, as the Disarmament Commission ended its general exchange of views for the current session, yesterday evening.

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Some speakers said highest priority should be given to the elimination of nuclear weapons. A number of representatives said the Commission members must exercise cooperation and compromise if the forum were to continue to contribute to the disarmament process.

Among the speakers yesterday, the representative of the Russian Federation, Boris P. Krasulin, said his delegation had taken its seat for the first time. One of the top priorities for Russia was to identify its place in the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, in particular in the light of its special responsibility as a permanent member of the Security Council. As a successor to the former Soviet Union, Russia confirmed all its obligations under the existing bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements signed in the fields of arms control and disarmament.

Speakers during the general debate termed regional disarmament an integral part of the entire process of arms reduction. The international community was urged to concentrate on how regional initiatives could help promote efforts at the global level and how developments at the global or extra-regional level could affect regional efforts.

The Commission will end its session on 11 May.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) today announced it will provide an additional 20,000 metric tons of emergency food aid to some 200,000 refugees from Myanmar who are now in south-east Bangladesh. The refugees are members of the minority Rohingya Muslim ethnic group who fled their country to escape civil conflict which began towards the end of 1991.

The provision of this emergency food assistance was jointly approved by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Edouard Saouma, and the Executive Director of WFP, Catherine Bertini.

With social tension inside Myanmar continuing, the influx into Bangladesh is likely to intensify. About 2,000 people are crossing daily into Bangladesh and, according to WFP, the refugees will require food assistance for the next six months.

The increase in the number of refugees, from 70,000 in January to 200,000 today, has had a serious impact on the relief assistance being provided to the refugees. Food supplies are running short faster than originally planned in view of the increased caseload, and health conditions in the camps are becoming precarious.

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Criminal justice must be carried out with full respect for human rights and legal guarantees, said Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United

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Nations Office at Vienna, at the opening of the first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice yesterday in the Austrian capital.

While the United Nations could not act as a world policeman, he said, it could help to mitigate conflicts, forestall potential victimization and help protect victims, particularly by providing technical assistance and advisory services.

The Commission, which elected Wonu Folami (Nigeria) as its Chairman, is scheduled to conclude its session on 30 April. Established in February with a mandate to develop, monitor and review the United Nations Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, it replaces the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1126
23 April 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses concern about deteriorating security situation in northern and southern part of Somalia; recommends to Security Council that it establish United Nations Operation in Somalia and call for general cease-fire throughout the country to allow for expanded humanitarian assistance.

+ Secretary-General, continuing his visit to India, holds talks with Indian Prime Minister on developments in Afghanistan, peace-keeping operations in Cambodia and Yugoslavia, among other things.

+ Libya requests legal opinion on United States' decision to reduce diplomatic personnel at Mission, under Security Council sanctions resolution 748 (1992).

+ World Commission on Environment and Development -- known as Brundtland Commission -- begins three-day session in London in preparation for Rio Earth Summit.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it establish a mission in Somalia -- to be known as United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) -- for an initial period of six months.

In a report to the Council, dated 21 April, the Secretary-General said such a mission would consist of United Nations observers to monitor the 3 March cease-fire agreed upon by Interim President Mohamed and General Aidid and of a security force to protect its personnel as well as safeguarding humanitarian activities in an around Mogadishu.

The Secretary-General said in his report that the cease-fire in Mogadishu had created a new and positive political climate, leading the two factions to meet face to face for the first time, on 12 April, to discuss the formation of a joint committee for relief assistance, under the chairmanship of Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance.

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For information media - not an official record

Despite the favourable developments in the Somali capital, the Secretary-General expressed concern about the increased fighting and the deteriorating security situation in the northern and southern part of the country. Taking these developments into account, he recommended that the Security Council call for a general cease-fire throughout the country. In addition to helping to bring an end to the fighting in different parts of the country, such action by the Council would create a situation conducive to the convening of a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia, he said.

In his report, Mr. Boutros-Ghali further said that he intended to appoint a Special Representative for Somalia to assist him in the consultations for the convening of a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia.

The Secretary-General's recommendation to set up UNOSOM follows the dispatch last month to the Somali capital of a technical team, led by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs James O.C. Jonah, and composed of representatives of United Nations and non-governmental agencies operating in Somalia. The team held discussions with the parties in an effort to reach agreement on "unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance" to the population in Mogadishu.

At United Nations Headquarters today, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs James O.C. Jonah briefed correspondents on the report, saying it represented a further stage in the effort of the Secretary-General to assist the people of Somalia "to bring about tranquility in that troubled country". While the Secretary-General welcomed the fact that the ceasefire had been holding for a very long time, he also drew attention to the fact that there were difficulties in other parts of in Somalia, Mr. Jonah stressed.

He also told the press that the Secretary-General has urged the World Food Programme (WFP) to begin shipments of food to Mogadishu as soon as possible. The WFP had agreed to deliver 5,000 tonnes of food by this weekend, and if successful, another 12,000 tonnes of food would follow.

The Council held consultations this afternoon on the Secretary-General's report and was expected to meet tomorrow in a formal meeting to take action on the report.

* * *

Continuing his visit to India, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, with whom he discussed various international matters, including the developments in Afghanistan, United Nations peace-keeping missions in Cambodia and Yugoslavia, the future of the Non-Aligned Movement and the forthcoming Earth Summit in Rio in June. They also discussed the role of the United Nations on various economic and social issues. Following their talks, the Prime Minister of India hosted a dinner in honour of the Secretary-General.

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The Secretary-General also met with Vice President Shanker Dayal Sharma, and the President of India, Mr. R. Venkataraman. He then addressed United Nations and specialized agencies staff and had a separate meeting with the heads of various United Nations and specialized agencies offices in New Delhi.

The Secretary-General leaves New Delhi for Islamabad tomorrow, 24 April, where he will receive a briefing by his Personal Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan. Mr. Sevan has held meetings with the Pakistani Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

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Charging that the United States, as host country, had reduced Libyan diplomatic personnel by 25 per cent, the representative of Libya requested a legal opinion on the recent Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on his country, which, he said, abrogated articles of the Headquarters Agreement. That request was made this morning, as the Committee on Relations with the Host Country held its first meeting of the year.

That request was made as the Committee on Relations with the Host Country held its first meeting of the year.

The representative of France said Council Resolution 748 (1992) contained binding provisions which mandated that States reduce the number of Libyan diplomatic personnel and, according to the Charter, prevailed over the Headquarters Agreement. The representative of the United States said his country had requested that the Libyan mission reduce its staff by three in accordance with the relevant provisions of that resolution.

Other issues discussed this morning related to staff limitations and travel restrictions imposed by the host country, as well as financial indebtedness of diplomatic personnel and staff.

The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Council, Carl-August Fleischhauer, said the problem of indebtedness risked jeopardizing some of the priviledges and immunities enjoyed by diplomats, particularly those related to inviolability. He appealed to all parties to take steps to safeguard the importance principle of inviolability and immunity, while at the same time removing the grounds for allegations of abuse.

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The World Commission on Environment and Development -- better known as the Brundtland Commission -- reconvened in London yesterday in its first session since producing a 1987 report which coined the term "sustainable development" and called on the United Nations to organize a global conference to find ways of maintaining "human progress within the guidelines of human needs and natural laws".

The Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland, opened the session calling attention to the fact that in six weeks the Rio de Janeiro Earth

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Summit would consider "the most fundamental issue facing the world community today: how to reconcile human activities with the laws of nature. She said it was time to end an era of procrastination and half-measures and to enter a period of firm action. It would amount to an abdication of duty without parallel, she said, if the opportunity created by UNCED were lost, she said.

Echoing Mrs. Bruntland's remarks, Britain's Prince Charles urged that a "sensible and far-sighted agenda for action" at the Rio de Janeiro Summit in June be worked out, in order that the future survival of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren is not sacrificed for short-term gain.

During its three-day session, the Commission will review developments since it submitted its report entitled Our Common Future to the General Assembly. The report was a significant factor in the Assembly's 1989 decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), now scheduled for Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1127
24 April 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says deployment of peace-keeping force to Bosnia-Hercegovina is "not feasible"; reiterates his appeal for immediate cease-fire in that region; expresses concern over situation of 1 million displaced persons and refugees "in the former Yugoslav lands".

+ Security Council holds consultations on Secretary-General's proposal to establish United Nations Operation in Somalia at estimated cost of $23.1 million for initial six months; 90-day humanitarian plan calling for "zone of peace" to allow shipment of emergency assistance by United Nations humanitarian agencies.

+ Secretary-General begins three-day official visit to Islamabad for talks on Pakistani Government assistance in efforts to achieve political solution to Afghanistan conflict; Personal Representative, Benon Sevan, briefs Secretary-General on his recent activities in Afghanistan; Secretary-General to travel to Iran before returning to New York.

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In a report to the Security Council today on the situation in Yugoslavia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says that the deployment of a peace-keeping force is "not feasible" in Bosnia-Hercegovina, in light of the current situation. He also repeated his appeal to all parties to stop fighting and to implement their cease-fire agreement of 12 April.

The Secretary-General's report is based on recommendations of his Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, who has just returned from his seventh mission to Yugoslavia. Mr. Vance had pointed to the "widespread violence" and limitations on human, material and financial resources as reasons not to deploy United Nations peace-keepers to the area. He reported that the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina had "worsened markedly" since his last visit to the area at the beginning of March. No party to the conflict was blameless for the current situation and its escalation and all sides had to bear some of the responsability for the outbreak of the conflict and its continuation, noted Mr. Vance. The Secretary-General said he fully concurred with this assessment.

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In his report, Mr. Boutros-Ghali also expresses "great concern" over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, noting that the armed conflict in that region had created some 185,000 new displaced persons, in addition to the 900,000 displaced persons and refugees from the fighting in Croatia. In sum, the conflicts in the former Yugoslav lands had resulted in well over 1 million displaced persons and refugees, says the Secretary-General. While the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had responded to the new crisis by immediately delivering food aid, he said, the provision of basic human needs was significantly hindered by the continued fighting.
(S/23836)

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon concerning the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a United Nations peace-keeping mission in Somalia -- to be known as United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) -- for an initial period of six months.

The Secretary-General had proposed, in his report to the Council dated 21 April, that such an operation be established to monitor the 3 March cease-fire agreed upon by Interim President Mohamed and General Aidid. According to an addendum to his report, the estimated cost of the Operation, which would consist of 500 military and security personnel and 79 civilian personnel, would be approximately $23.1 million.

In his initial report to the Council, the Secretary-General noted that the situation continued to be of great concern to the "international community" and had "destabilizing effects" on the Horn of Africa. Last month, he dispatched a technical team to the Somali capital to discuss humanitarian assistance to the population in Mogadishu, in accordance with the Security Council resolution 746 (1992) of 17 March.

In yet another addendum to the Secretary-General's report, dated 21 April, the team outlined its humanitarian programme in a 90-day plan of action, saying some 1.5 million people in various part of the country were seriously threatened by lack of food and health care. A further 3.5 million Somalis were also in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, the team said.

According to the report, the deteriorating security situation throughout many parts of the country continued to be a major impediment to the delivery of relief assistance. Describing the situation as "problematic and dangerous", the team recommended the establishment of a "zone of peace" for the port of Mogadishu to allow food shipments to reach the capital, as well as deployment of adequate security personnel to protect United Nations relief personnel and enable safe passage for supplies. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would be responsible for shipments of food supplies to the port, if the security situation in and around Mogadishu improves.

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The 90-day plan of action, the report said, could only succeed through a carefully coordinated and collaborative effort on the part of the local leadership, clan elders, the international community, the ICRC, NGOs and the United Nations system. The Secretary-General has appointed David Bassiouni as Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to ensure that maximum use is made of the resources. He will be based in Mogadishu.

In addition, the Secretary-General is expected to appoint shortly a Special Representative for Somalia to assist him in convening a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia.
(S/23829, add.1, add.2)

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived this afternoon in Islamabad from New Delhi to begin a three-day official visit to Pakistan. Upon his arrival, the Secretary-General told the press that during his visit he would hold discussions and negotiations with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan concerning the role of that country at the United Nations and the assistance that Pakistan can give to the Organization in its efforts to achieve a national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Earlier in the day, Benon Sevan, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan arrived in New Delhi in order to brief the Secretary-General on the latest developments in Afghanistan. Speaking to correspondents at New Delhi airport, before leaving India, the Secretary-General thanked the Government and people of that country for their assistance and support to him in pursuing the aims of the United Nations.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General is scheduled to hold meetings in the morning with Foreign Minister Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju and, at lunch time, with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. In the evening, he will hold a meeting with the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Following his official visit to Pakistan, the Secretary-General is scheduled to travel to Iran in an effort to avoid violence and promote reconciliation in Afghanistan.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1128
27 April 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, en route to New York, welcomes efforts by Pakistan and Iran towards peaceful settlement of Afghan question and stresses need for neighbouring countries to "actively promote national unity and reconciliation of Afghan people".

+ Security Council authorizes United Nations operation in Somalia; asks Secretary-General to deploy 50 observers to monitor cease-fire.

+ Security Council condemns use of force in Bosnia-Hercegovina; approves Secretary-General's plan to accelerate deployment of observers.

+ Secretary-General cites fighting in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia-Hercegovina as "complicating factor" for timely resumption of responsibilities by United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia.

+ United Nations offers its assistance for "safe and voluntary" repatriation of Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh.

+ Secretary-General states World Programme of Action for Disabled Persons can open way to their full participation in society.

+ General Assembly President meets in Tokyo with Japanese Emperor and officials.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has left Teheran for New York, thus ending his three-week trip to Europe and Asia, including visits to Pakistan and Iran.

Briefing correspondents today on the Secretary-General's activities over the weekend, a United Nations spokeswoman said Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had met yesterday in Teheran with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and President Ali-Akbar Hahsemi Rafsanjani.

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For information media—not an official record

This morning, she said, the Secretary-General held a second round of talks with the Foreign Minister, and another meeting with the Iranian President. During these talks - described as "constructive" - a wide range of international and regional issues were discussed, in particular, the situation in Afghanistan, the question of Nagorno-Karabakh and Security Council resolution 598 (1987), which called for an immediate cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

During the meetings, the Secretary-General welcomed the efforts made by Iran towards achieving a peaceful settlement of the Afghan question and emphasized the need for neighbouring countries to actively promote the national unity and reconciliation of the Afghan people. He also emphasized the need to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

Before leaving Iran today, Secretary-General met with Iran-based Mujahiddeen group Hezb-i-Wahdat-e-Islami (Islamic Unity Party).

Yesterday, the Secretary-General ended his three-day official visit to Pakistan during which he held talks with Pakistan's President, Ghulam Ishag Khan; Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif; and Foreign Minister Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju on a wide variety of international and regional issues, including Afghanistan and Kashmir.

During the meetings, the Secretary-General welcomed Pakistan's "firm support" for United Nations efforts in Afghanistan. He noted that the establishment of a durable peace and the maintenance of national unity were prerequisites for solliciting the necessary financial and humanitarian assistance from the international community.

With regard to the current developments in Kabul, the Secretary-General appealed to all concerned to exercise restraint and to avoid violence at this final stage.

He also expressed concern about the situation in Kashmir, saying he hoped that ongoing dialogue between the two parties would lead to peaceful solution of the question.

During his visit to Pakistan, the Secretary-General was accompanied by his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan.

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The Security Council has decided to establish a United Nations Operation in the north-west African nation of Somalia -- to be known as UNOSOM - to facilitate an immediate cessation of hostilities and the maintenance of a cease-fire throughout the country, to promote the process of reconciliation and political settlement, and to provide urgent humanitarian assistance.

During a meeting on Friday night, 24 April, the Council voted unanimously to send 50 United Nations observers to monitor the cease-fire in Mogadishu and approved in principle the Secretary-General's plan to deploy a security force

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as soon as possible to escort humanitarian assistance from the port to nearby distribution centres.

The Council called on all parties, movements and factions in Somalia for an immediate cease-fire throughout the country. It also appealed to the international community for financial and other support for the Secretary-General's 90-day Plan of Action for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for an estimated 5 million people in need of food, seeds and basic health care.

The Secretary-General stated in his report to the Council that the effectiveness of the plan required full recognition of the principles of international humanitarian assistance, namely that designated "corridors" and "zones of peace" must be maintained; and that the inviolability of all United Nations and non-governmental personnel was a fundamental prerequisite.

According to a United Nations spokeswoman today, the resolution adopted Friday night has been handed over to both Interim President Mahdi and General Aideed in Mogadishu. Informal consultations on the composition of the 50 military advisers began over the weekend and would be submitted to the Security Council in a few days.

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In a second meeting Friday night, the Security Council demanded an immediate end to all forms of interference from outside Bosnia-Hercegovina and specifically urged country's neighbours to exercise all their influence to that end.

In a statement read out by Acting Council President Stanislaus Chigwedere (Zimbabwe) on its behalf, the Council asked the States neighbouring Bosnia-Hercegovina to condemn publicly and unreservedly the use of force, and urged all regular or irregular military forces to act in accordance with those principles.

The statement noted with satisfaction the decision of the Secretary-General to accelerate the deployment in Bosnia-Hercegovina of 100 military observers from the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR).

The Secretary-General observed in his report to the Council, dated 24 April, that the situation had "worsened markedly" since March and announced his decision to advance the dispatch of 41 unarmed military observers. The report summarized the outcome of the seventh mission to the region of Cyrus Vance, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on Yugoslavia, from 14 to 18 April. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he concurred with Mr. Vance's conclusion that "no party to the conflict is blameless" and that all sides "have to bear some of the responsibility" of the outbreak of the conflict and its continuation.

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The Security Council will hold consultations tomorrow afternoon on the Secretary-General's report on Mr. Vance's mission to Yugoslavia, as well as on the Secretary-General progress report, dated 24 April.

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The fighting in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia-Hercegovina had been a "complicating factor" in the assumption of responsibilities by the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) by the middle of May, a later date than originally planned. This was stated today in the Secretary-General's progress report to the Security Council, dated 24 April, on the "earliest stages" of the Force's operation.

One factor cited was the time involved in transferring infantry battalions and their equipment from distant countries to the mission area, at an acceptable cost to Member States. However, the report said, so far it had been possible to maintain the schedule originally presented to the Council.

Other issues, the Secretary-General said, have made clear "the complexity of the challenge" confronting the Force and the United Nations as a whole. He pointed to a proposal by federal authorities that certain areas in Croatia, primarily inhabited by Serbs, be included in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs). Another proposal by the Croatian side sought UNPROFOR's assistance concerning the presence of Serb irregular forces in these areas, without including them in the UNPAs. The Secretary-General said these questions went beyond the existing provisions of the United Nations peace-keeping plan. However, in view of their implications for UNPROFOR's viability, he said, consultations were continuing with both sides.

The report also acknowledged that some of the difficulties UNPROFOR was experiencing were the kind frequently experienced by new peace-keeping operations. Other problems, however, raised concern about the commitment of the parties to the demilitarization of the UNPAs, maintenance of existing arrangements for local administration and public order, as well as the voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes.

The Security Council will hold consultations tomorrow afternoon on the progress report as well as on the Secretary-General's report based on Mr. Vance's seventh mission to Yugoslavia.
(S/23844)

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Spokeswoman Nadia Younes announced today that Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator for Emergency Relief, Jan Eliasson, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mrs. Sadako Ogata, had held talks during the weekend with the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

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They reiterated to the Foreign Ministers that repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh would be safe and voluntary, and offered the assistance of the United Nations.

* * *

Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali sent a message of hope to the Expert Group Meeting on a Long-term Strategy to Further Implementation of the World Program of Action for Disabled Persons, meeting this weekend in Vancouver, Canada.

In his message, delivered on his behalf by Under-Secretary-General for Public Affairs, Joseph Verner Reed, the Secretary-General praised the sponsors of the gathering for beginning to open the way for the full participation of disabled persons throughout the world.

The three-day meeting, which ended today, marks the final year of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Secretary General said in his message that "it is important at this point for the United Nations to assess the progress that has been made during the past 10 years and to determine what challenges continue to face disabled people world-wide".

In 1981, the General Assembly passed a comprehensive resolution declaring a decade of international attention to be paid to the rights and challenges of the disabled persons of the world. One year later, in 1982, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons was drawn up by the General Assembly with a built in 10-year mandate.

In his closing remarks, the Secretary General said that the last year of the Decade "will be used as a transitional point for putting into place the lessons learned for transforming awareness into action". To accomplish this task the Secretary General urged political leaders around the world to accord disability issues the high priority they deserve.

* * *

The President of the General Assembly, Samir Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), met last week in Tokyo with Japanese elected officials and the country's Emperor.

During his two-day visit to Japan, which ended on Friday, 24 April, Mr. Shihabi acknowledged that Japan never hesitated to pay its share to the United Nations on time. He also expressed his appreciation for Japan's backing and financial support of the United Nations.

At a lunch given in his honour on Thursday, the Assembly President expressed the Assembly's appreciation for Japan's interest in contributing to the United Nations peace-keeping activities, adding that such contributions were the duty and moral responsibility of all Member States.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1129
28 April 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Paris, holds talks with French President and Foreign Minister on possible United Nations peace-keeping operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina; prepared to send evaluation mission to the region to consider feasibility of such operation.

+ Secretary-General appoints Mohammed Sahnoun of Algeria as Special Representative for Somalia, effective today.

+ United Nations inspection team says most of Iraq's identified missile production equipment has been destroyed; Iraq can no longer produce ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres at three of its major production sites.

+ Secretary-General expresses appreciation for important role played by German Foreign Minister Genscher, as the latter announces his intention to retire.

+ United Nations should encourage democratic elections by sending civilian observers, European Community Members tell Committee on Peace-keeping operations.

+ General Assembly President arrives in Beijing for meetings with Chinese Foreign Minister and other officials.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stopped in Paris today on his way to New York for meetings with French President François Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas regarding a possible United Nations role in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During their meeting, the Secretary-General and Foreign Minister Dumas had a tour d'horizon of the international situation, particularly in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. The Secretary-General then held a meeting with

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For information media—not an official record

President Mitterrand, during which they discussed Cambodia, Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Libya, Afghanistan, Somalia and the forthcoming Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

In a statement issued at Headquarters, a United Nations spokeswoman said the Secretary-General had taken note of the French position regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina. He would be prepared to send an evaluation mission to look into the feasibility of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "It would not be productive for the United Nations to undertake such an operation without the means to do so or without a clear and viable mandate", she said.

The statement was issued at Headquarters in connection with remarks made by the Secretary-General to the press in Paris.

Tomorrow morning, before leaving for New York, the Secretary-General will meet with the French Minister of Health and Humanitarian Action, Bernard Kouchner, who has just returned from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

* * *

The Secretary-General today announced the appointment of Mohammed Sahnoun of Algeria as Special Representative for Somalia, effective today.

The Security Council had welcomed, in its resolution 751 (1992) of Friday, 24 April, the Secretary-General's intention to appoint such a representative to provide overall direction of United Nations activities in Somalia and to assist him in his endeavours for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country.

Mr. Sahnoun has served as Algeria's Ambassador to Germany, France, the United States and Morocco. He was Chief of the Algerian Mission to the United Nations from 1982 to 1984.

Mr. Sahnoun is currently senior Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

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Most of Iraq's identified missile production equipment has been destroyed, and Iraq can no longer produce ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres at three of its major production sites, the Chief Inspector of a United Nations inspection team said yesterday.

Christopher Holland, who has returned to New York after leading the tenth inspection team in Iraq, said that most buildings and equipment identified by the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament as having been involved in the production of ballistic missiles in Iraq have been destroyed.

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The team, which comprised seven experts from five countries, had supervised and verified the destruction of 45 items of production equipment and 10 buildings associated with Iraq's ballistic missiles programme.

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While in Paris today, the Secretary General spoke to German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on the telephone in connection with Mr. Genscher's announced retirement. Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed appreciation for the important role played by the German Foreign Minister in international relations. He also expressed the hope that Mr. Genscher will continue to play an active role in international relations and to support the United Nations in attaining its objectives.

The Secretary General's call came in the wake of Mr. Genscher's announcement yesterday that he intended to retire after 18 years as Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country.

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With the consent of the States concerned, the United Nations should encourage the holding of democratic elections by sending civilian observers, the representative of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, told the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations yesterday as it began its general debate.

Fernando Reino of Portugal said that of the 12 ongoing peace-keeping operations, five had been established since the Committee met last year. Those operations made substantial demands on the United Nations and its Member States, he said. A series of practical measures enabling the Organization to cope effectively with its major undertakings was needed.

The representative of Germany referred to the constitutional reform process being undertaken in his country that would eventually enable it to participate in the military component of peace-keeping operations. The representative of Japan said there was a bill before his country's Diet designed to enable it to contribute personnel to peace-keeping operations.

* * *

The President of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), arrived in Beijing yesterday from Tokyo for meetings with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and other officials.

During the meetings, the Foreign Minister expressed his country's support for the United Nations. He said the current session of the General Assembly was an important one, taking place at a time of change.

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The Assembly President also met with Li Peng, Premier of the State Council, who told Mr. Shihabi that the Chinese people placed great hopes in the United Nations and looked to it to resolve difficulties. China fully supported the United Nations and a strengthened role for the General Assembly.

Tomorrow, Mr. Shihabi will pay a courtesy call on Yang Shangkun, the President of China.

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Correction: Please note that Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator for Emergency Relief is not the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia, as erroneously stated in Thursday Highlights (23 April). The Secretary-General has appointed David Bassiouni as Coordinator for Somalia.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1130
29 April 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General decides to send Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to Bosnia-Herzegovina to examine feasibility of United Nations operation in that region.

+ Secretary-General returns to New York following talks in Paris with French Minister of Health and Humanitarian Action on humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia, among other things.

+ United Nations welcomes joint communiqué by Bangladesh and Myanmar reaffirming principles of safe and voluntary return of refugees.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations says $2.7 billion cost of current unprecedented number of peace-keeping operations has been a significant test for United Nations.

+ United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia continues to make progress in its effort to repatriate Cambodians wishing to return to their country.

+ Fifth and final round of negotiations on climate change convention resumes tomorrow in New York.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights calls torture "one of the greatest scourges afflicting humanity" in opening statement to eighth session of Committee against Torture.

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A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had decided to send Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping operations, to Bosnia-Herzegovina to examine the evolving situation in that region and to look into the feasibility of a United Nations peace-keeping operation there.

Mr. Goulding will be travelling to Yugoslavia as soon as possible, she said.

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The Secretary-General returned to New York this morning from Paris where he met with the French Minister of Health and Humanitarian Action, Bernard Kouchner, for discussions on humanitarian action in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia, as well as the coordination of humanitarian action within the United Nations.

The Secretary-General would be in contact with members of the Security Council on a number of issues before the Council, a United Nations spokeswoman said.

Acting Security Council President, Stanislaus Chigwedere (Zimbabwe) told correspondents last night, following consultations by the Council on the Secretary-General's progress report on the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), that the Council would remain in "full consultations with the Secretary-General" to ensure that "obstacles and hurdles that lie in the way" would be minimized. He said Council members would not proceed on the Bosnia-Herzegovina question until it had discussed the situation with the Secretary-General during consultations today.

* * *

The United Nations has welcomed a joint communiqué by the Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh reaffirming the principles of safe and voluntary return of refugees, according to a statement by United Nations spokeswoman today.

The Coordinator of Emergency Relief, Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, had been in contact with Mrs. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), concerning the communiqué, which was issued in Dhaka yesterday.

The statement further said that while the United Nations recognized the fact that the refugee flow to Bangladesh is still continuing, the Organization had urged both sides to acknowledge the technical and confidence-building role which the UNHCR can play at various stages of the repatriation. The Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar had been informed that the UNHCR was willing to engage in consultations with both sides to help ensure a genuinely voluntary and safe repatriation of refugees.

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Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, said yesterday that the lengthy and complex process of funding peace-keeping operations was an obstacle faced by the Secretariat in their effective deployment. Addressing a meeting of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, Mr. Goulding went on to say that the $2.7 billion cost of the current unprecedented number of peace-keeping operations was two and a half times the budget of the entire Organization. Such an expansion of operations had been a significant test for the Secretariat and the supporting member

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States. Providing major transport, necessary equipment, military and police personnel, as well as support personnel from the Secretariat, he said, had been the major areas of concern in setting up each operation.

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The United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) continues to make progress in its effort to repatriate Cambodians wishing to return to their country.

A spokesman for UNTAC said today that, as of yesterday, 4,215 people had been returned. Tomorrow, trains would be utilized in the repatriation effort for the first time. This development was significant, the spokesman said, since it would mark the opening in Phnom Penh of the third reception centre in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and since this means of transportation would assume greater importance during the rainy season when road conditions deteriorate and thereby further complicate the task undertaken by the convoys of trucks.

* * *

Negotiations on the Climate Control Convention to combat global warming will resume tomorrow, 30 April, in New York, as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee begins its fifth and final session.

The session was suspended on 28 February after two weeks of negotiations failed to result in consensus on key aspects of the convention, which negotiators hope will be signed at the upcoming United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June. The resumed session will continue until 8 May.

At a press briefing today at Headquarters, the Committee's Executive Secretary Micheal Zammitt Cutajar said the major issue before the negotiators was to get the commitment from industrialized countries to stabilize or reduce their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, the leading cause of global warming. One proposal before the Committee calls for a timetable for keeping those emissions at around 1990 levels by the year 2000. According to Mr. Cutajar, developing countries have insisted, at previous sessions of the Negotiating Committee, that the bulk of the costs of their accession to a climate change convention must be paid for by the industrialized countries.

When asked if it was important that United States President George Bush sign on to the Convention, the Executive Secretary Mr. Cutajar told reporters in New York that "symbolically it would be very important".

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Calling torture "one of the greatest scourges afflicting humanity", Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, has wished the Committee against Torture, currently meeting in Geneva, success in contributing to torture's elimination.

In his first address to a human rights treaty monitoring body since assuming his post, Mr. Blanca recalled that the number of States parties to the Convention had risen from 63 to 66 since the last session of the Committee.

During its eighth session, which began on 27 April, the Committee will consider measures taken by Uruguay, Italy and Romania to prevent and punish acts of torture. As in previous sessions, the Committee, which is charged with monitoring the implementation of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, will also examine reports containing well-founded indications that torture is being systematically used in a State party to the Convention. In addition, the Committee will consider communications from individuals claiming to be victims of a violation of a State party of the Convention.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1131
30 April 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes establishment of Mujahedeen Interim Council in Kabul; United Nations to begin assessment of humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and to reactivate Operation Salaam to assist in immediate repatriation of Afghan refugees.

+ Hungary and United Kingdom pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as Committee on Climate Change Convention resumes negotiations.

+ Cuba requests meeting of Security Council to consider "sabotage of the Cubana de Aviación aircraft" destroyed near Barbados on 6 october 1976.

+ Sisophon Express -- first repatriation operation by rail of Cambodian refugees by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees -- brings 612 refugees back to Phnom Penh today.

+ Distinction between preventive diplomacy and preventive peace-keeping is examined by delegates in continuing general debate of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

+ Palestinian Rights Committee accepts offer by Malta to host its European Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine at the end of July.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the establishment of the Mujahedeen Interim Council in Kabul which he described as "an important step towards the end of the suffering of the Afghan people".

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General also welcomed the declaration of amnesty, saying much healing was needed in Afghanistan. "This is the time for rehabilitation and reconstruction and for the promotion of Afghan unity", he said, adding that "the United Nations stands ready to help the people of Afghanistan in pursuing these goals".

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General held discussions with Iranian and Pakistani leaders and with the Afghan mujahedeen leaders during his visit to the two countries last weekend. Mr. Boutros-Ghali's Personal Representative, Benon Sevan, was present at those meetings.

Meanwhile, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, has asked the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, to carry out an immediate assessment of the humanitarian needs in Afghanistan. He has also asked Mr. Sevan to prepare a plan to reactivate Operation Salaam for immediate assistance in the repatriation and rehabilitation process. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is already assisting refugees and is preparing to support their repatriation.

According to a United Nations spokeswoman, the need for humanitarian assistance throughout Afghanistan is acute, and it is hoped that a plan to provide such assistance can be put into operation as quickly as the security situation improves. Existing pledges of some 20,000 tonnes of food from Pakistan and the United States and some other countries will be used to support these activities. Due to the rapid changes in the security conditions, not only in Kabul and its surrounding areas but also on all land routes, it has not been possible to arrange further shipments of food, the spokeswoman said.

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The representatives of the United Kingdom and Hungary this morning announced their Government's commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a framework convention on climate change resumed its fifth session.

The representative of the United Kingdom said that, provided other countries took similar action, his Government was ready to set itself the target of returning carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Hungary pledged that by that same year, its carbon dioxide emissions from domestic energy consumption would not exceed the annual emission level of the period 1985 to 1987.

The Committee Chairman, Jean Ripert (France), said this was the last round of negotiations; there would be no further resumption, and outstanding issues could not be discussed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June. Rather, the Committee was to submit a report to the Conference.

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Cuba has demanded that the Security Council condemn the "sabotage of the Cubana de Aviación aircraft" which was destroyed in mid-flight, near Barbados on 6 october 1976, and has charged that the United States was involved with the plane's downing which took the lives of 73 people.

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In a letter to the President of the Council, dated 27 April, the Cuban Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, said that not to condemn that act would "dishonour the Council and undermine its prestige and credibility". He has requested a meeting of the Council as soon as possible.

The Cuban letter also calls the Council's attention to other issues including what it calls "terrorist activities against the people of Cuba", previously brought to the Council's attention. Those activities, the letter charges, include the announced plans of groups residing in the United States to invade Cuba with the "complicity or tolerance of the Washington Government". (S/23850)

* * *

The first repatriation operation by rail of Cambodian refugees, undertaken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), carried 612 refugees from Sisophon to Phnom Penh today in a specially chartered train.

With the successful run by what has been called the "Sisophon Express", it is hoped that movements by rail can be arranged during the rainy season - from May to August - when road conditions deteriorate.

According to the UNHCR, 5,703 refugees have been returned to Cambodia by convoys from camps in Thailand since 30 March, when the Agency began its largest and most complex repatriation operation.

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The distinction between preventive diplomacy and preventive peace-keeping has been examined by representatives of several States in the continuing general debate of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

The representative of China emphasized that all peace-keeping operations must recognize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. An operation could only be established at the request and with the agreement of all parties involved, under the explicit authorization of the Security Council. He went on to say that the role of regional organizations should be given full play in the area of preventive diplomacy.

The essential involvement of regional organizations in peace-keeping activities was also stressed by the representative of Egypt. Such organizations, in conjunction with the United Nations, had played a commendable role in Somalia and Libya. He also pointed out that while the Security Council was responsible for authorizing peace-keeping operations, the Charter assigned the General Assembly a role in the maintenance of peace.

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The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has decided to accept an offer by Malta to host its European Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine at the end of July. The exact dates for the seminar will be determined in consultations with the Government.

At a meeting yesterday, the Committee approved the proposed programme for its North American Seminar, to be held in New York from 22 to 23 June. It also approved the requests of some 80 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate in NGO meetings organized by the Committee.

Committee Chairman Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal reported on the Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium, as well as the Ninth United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine, which was held at Geneva at the end of March.

He said the meeting had provided the participants with an opportunity to share with each other valuable experiences and special insights which were helpful in planning the International NGO Meeting and the European NGO Symposium.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1132
1 May 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia to arrive in Mogadishu on Monday, 4 May, for discussions with two Somali parties on sending a 500-member United Nations battalion which is to provide security for humanitarian assistance programme.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees launches appeal for $150 million to assist 1.2 million refugees forced from their homes by ethnic violence in Yugoslavia.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations Marrack Goulding to leave New York tomorrow, 2 May; will meet on Sunday in Lisbon with Chairman of Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ World Food Programme attempts to deliver emergency food aid to Mogadishu.

+ Governing Council of United Nations Development Programme to discuss applications for recipient status by eight new United Nations members -- all members of former Soviet Union -- at session beginning on Monday, 4 May, in Geneva.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Mohammed Sahnoun, left last night for Somalia. He is scheduled to arrive in Mogadishu on Monday, 4 May.

The Special Representative will be discussing with the two parties in Mogadishu -- Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aidid -- the question of sending a 500-member United Nations battalion which is to provide security for the humanitarian assistance programme. Mr. Sahnoun will visit the north and the south of Somalia to hold talks with the various parties there.

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For information media--not an official record

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched an appeal in Geneva saying funds were urgently needed to prevent a further spillover of refugees from Yugoslavia into the neighbouring States from the more than 1 million people displaced.

In a press release issued today by the UNHCR, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said "the escalating violence in Yugoslavia has created the first major refugees crisis in Europe in 41 years".

The Agency said Mrs. Ogata had sent a letter to Foreign Ministers of donor nations, expressing her "deep alarm over the almost hourly increase in the number of refugees and displaced". There were at present over 1,240,000 refugees forced from their homes by ethnic violence in Yugoslavia, and UNHCR would need about $150 million in the next few months just to keep the displaced alive. According to the UNHCR, contributions to date totaled $14.1 million.

In her letter to Foreign Ministers, Mrs. Ogata said, "My office finds itself without the means to provide even minimal humanitarian relief".

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The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, will leave New York tomorrow, 2 May, and will meet on Sunday with the Chairman of the Conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Lisbon.

According to a United Nations spokeswoman, Mr. Goulding would travel to Yugoslavia on Monday, 4 May. He would be in Sarajevo on 5 and 6 May. On 7 May he would return to Belgrade and on 8 May he would visit the eastern sector and Zagreb before returning to New York.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has dispatched a ship from Mombasa, Kenya, loaded with 5,000 tonnes of wheat to the Somali capital, Mogadishu, in an attempt to reopen emergency supply lines into the war-torn capital. The ship is expected to arrive on Sunday, 3 May.

The "Felix", a Romanian-registered vessel, will carry food to the approximately 1 million people in and around Mogadishu, who are in desperate need of food assistance.

There have been many reports of food shortages and subsequent malnutrition among the population in the city, but no emergency food assistance has reached the city for the last several months because of heavy fighting. The food will be distributed to all sides in the city, and the United Nations will be responsible for its transportation and distribution.

A previous attempt by the WFP to ship food on 5 March was unsuccessful when the ship came under shelling and machine-gun fire as it entered Mogadishu harbour. Following further negotiations with all the concerned parties in the

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Somali capital, and their assurance of safe passage for the ship, the Programme believed another attempt to ship food in was warranted.

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Eight new members of the United Nations, who have applied for recipient status at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are set to benefit from the resources and funds of the Agency, according to Edward Omotoso, Deputy Director of the Division of External Relations and Governing Council of UNDP. The UNDP official says however that, based on the population size of the eight countries -- all members of the former Soviet Union -- the amount of money "will not be great", nor will it jeopardize the funding of countries already receiving aid from UNDP.

With the upcoming meeting of the Governing Council, opening in Geneva on Monday, 4 May, African and other poor countries have expressed concern that they may be marginalized by the developments in the former Soviet Union. According to Mr. Omotoso, the Governing Council will examine UNDP's resource outlook in light of the new applications during its session, which will end on 29 May. The Agency has decided that 55 per cent of its resources must go to the least developed countries, he said, and officials at the meeting will work to safeguard that policy, thereby ensuring that resources will not be taken away from poor countries.

Like all other Members, the eight States must advise UNDP's Governing Council of their plans and projects for a five-year period so that the Agency can make the appropriate allocation of funds. The eight States have told UNDP that their primary need was not for money, but for a United Nations presence in the form of technical cooperation and assistance, equipment, experts and scholars to expose them to the world in general.

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